

Good News Parish Magazine

High Downs
Parish

Serving the villages of
Eastling, Otterden,
Stalisfield and Throwley

www.goodnews.rf.gd



- 2nd Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 13th 10th Anniversary Charity Fundraiser
The Plough, Stalisfield 6pm
- 13th Summer Evensong
Wychling Church 4pm
- 14th Stalisfield Parish Council meeting
Stalisfield Village Hall 3.30pm
- 20th Deadline for September Good News
goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 25th Eat, Pray, Walk
Doddington Church 1.30pm
- 26th Stalisfield Village Fête
Stalisfield Hall and Green 2pm
- 27th The Wizard of Oz open air theatre
Belmont House 2pm

SEPTEMBER

- 3rd Otterden Evensong
Otterden Chapel 5pm
- 6th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 9th Village Hall Silver Jubilee
Eastling Village Hall 2 - 6pm
- 10th Summer Evensong
Wychling Church 4pm
- 13th Stalisfield Youth Group
Stalisfield Village Hall 7-8.30pm
- 14th Charing History Society
Parish Hall, Charing 7.30 for 8pm
- 18th Eastling Parish Council meeting
Eastling Village Hall 6.30pm
- 22nd Eat, Pray, Walk
Doddington Church 1.30pm

STALISFIELD GREEN VILLAGE FETE AND FUN DOG SHOW

SATURDAY 26TH AUGUST

2PM FETE OPEN
2:30 DOG SHOW
3:15 LINE DANCING
DISPLAY

BBQ

TEA AND CAKE

WOOLLY MAMMOTH

STALLS

ICE LOLLIES

Dog Show Classes

1. Waggiest Tail
2. Prettiest Bitch
3. most handsome dog
4. The one the judge would like to take home
5. Best junior handler under 12.
6. Championship

**SPLAT THE RAT, HUMAN FRUIT MACHINE,
PRODUCE, DEEPEST SAW, CROCKERY SMASH,
BOOKS AND MUCH MORE!**

Get involved in Stalisfield Fete Competitions!

1. LANDSCAPE PHOTO SHOWING BEAUTY OF STALISFIELD
2. FLOWER ARRANGEMENT IN A JAM JAR
3. MONSTER MADE OUT OF VEGETABLES
4. SPA/GYM FOR A HAMSTER

These competitions are open to all ages, but if you are under 14 please include your age.

Bring to Stalisfield Hall at 2pm on Saturday August 26th.



EASTLING VILLAGE HALL SILVER JUBILEE

The Coronation isn't the only important celebration for 2023!

September sees our much-loved Eastling Village Hall, where so many of us have had good times and exhausting exercise, reach 25 years of age.

So it's time for another party!

Saturday 9th September 2023
2-6pm

A free "bring and share" party will be held in the Hall. Please bring a plate (or plates!) of food for all to share and enjoy. A free drink will be provided and please bring along any other drink for yourselves. The Trustees are delighted to have secured live music from the locally acclaimed Mark Lees. There will be a cake raffle - volunteer cake makers please contact Annie on jacksonandadams@btopenworld.com who is also available to answer any other questions about this unmissable event! The Trustees look forward to welcoming you to this grand celebration.

August Message

This picture makes my heart sing. Why? Because here you see life. And young people enjoying life. And some older people facilitating that enjoyment of life...and pretty much enjoying it too (even on 3 hours sleep!)



Last month, we enabled our two beneficent youth groups from Stalisfield and Lynsted to get together for a 24 hour campout – under canvas, with campfire, team challenges, conversation and eating. When working with young people, food is central to the plan.

At the end of the weekend it was commented that this short time had been 'life affirming' not 'life draining'. So often, when we think of doing things for others, it can feel like an inconvenience, or something we just can't fit into our busy lives, or we don't feel we are capable, or we're too old, or, or, or....or a plenitude of reasons. It's very easy to confuse what might be affirming, as draining.

The thing is, giving to others, blessing others even if it feels hard, actually blesses us. Not that we do things for reward, but inevitably, we feel

rewarded deep inside. We feel good about ourselves and thankful that we put that extra effort in to bring life to others.

The bible is peppered with stories of hospitality – making others feel welcome, offering people food and drink, creating spaces for others to feel at home, or to know they are loved. Everyone can take encouragement from these stories of being Christ-like as we have probably all shown kindness and welcome to others in our lives.

But how do we go the extra mile to do these things when we're tired, or don't feel like giving any more?

This quote might help.

'Around us life bursts forth with miracles, a glass of water, a ray of sunshine, a

leaf, a caterpillar, a flower, laughter, raindrops. If you live in awareness, it is easy to see miracles everywhere. Each human being is a multiplicity of miracles. Eyes that see thousands of colours, shapes and forms; ears that hear a bee flying or a thunderclap; a brain that ponders a speck of dust as easily as the entire cosmos; a heart that beats in rhythm with the heartbeat of all beings. When we feel tired by life's daily struggles we may not notice these miracles, but they are always there. The sights and sounds of the world are not your enemies. Your enemy is forgetfulness.'

I heard this quote from a Buddhist Monk, Thich Nhat Hanh, that resonated with my Christian faith and helped me realise why I do what I do. I don't want to forget how precious life is. I don't want others to forget either. If Jesus' primary mission was to enable us to live life in all its fullness, maybe we all need a daily dose of awareness of the wonder of life and perhaps we will have that motivation to go out and bless others with that wonder as well.

And so I pray this month, that you may also discover those life-affirming moments that make your heart sing and bring you great blessing.

Revd. Caroline Turvey.

August Prayer Pointers

Mondays - For the safety of our Farmers and horticultural workers as they harvest their crops.

Tuesdays - For people around the world suffering from the effects of climate change.

Wednesdays - For charity workers abroad.

Thursdays - For foster carers and the children for whom they care.

Fridays - For those working to help all in need of food or shelter, legal advice or just someone to talk to.

Saturdays - For all on holiday that they return safe and rested.

Sundays - Praise God for our homes, our families and friends.



*The Plough at Stalisfield
10 year anniversary charity fund
raiser party!*

Sunday 13th August

Enjoy a relaxed afternoon with Group Therapy from 3.30pm & Hullabaloo from 6pm, with line dancing from C & G in between plus lots of 'things' for the little ones to do!

And as a thank you for your donation we would love you to join us in raising a glass and a bite to eat to celebrate our 10 year anniversary.

100% of this donation that you make online via our website theploughinstalisfield.co.uk/donation will go directly to the Air Ambulance Kent & Abbies Army and hopefully we'll add some more to it after the day!



Make your donation via our website to join us for a bite and a drink on us! 100% of this donation will go to the charities directly

We'll have live music from Group Therapy & Hullabaloo and Line Dancing from C & G the dance plus lots of 'things' for little ones to do!

Join us to celebrate our 10 year anniversary at the pub & raise money for Kent Air Ambulance & Abbie's Army

Stalisfield Village Hall Events 2023

August 26th – Stalisfield FETE
October 7th – Harvest Supper
December 8th and 9th – Pantomime
December 10th TBC - Seniors' Christmas Meal
December 16th - Children's Christmas Party

More details on our website: <https://www.stalisfieldvillagehall.co.uk>

Save the Date.....

Stalisfield Harvest Supper

Saturday 7th October, 7.30pm

Stalisfield Village Hall



Clothmaking in the Weald of Kent

The talk covers the growth and decline of high-quality woollen cloth making in the Weald, how it employed a large number of people and the skills required in the several stages of its production.



Speaker: Tony Singleton

When: 14th September 2023

Where: Parish Hall, Station Road

Time: 7.30pm doors open

Talk starts promptly at 8pm



CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.charinghistory.co.uk

Norma Murrain describes the joy of stillness...

Be still and know...

"Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10

Have you ever thought of taking some time out of daily life, to simply 'be still' with God? To hear His voice, enjoy His presence, and perhaps receive His direction for your future? When one lady was told that her friend was "taking some time out to 'be still' and listen to God", she responded with curiosity: "What does His voice sound like?"

For many Christians, the response would be this: "His voice for me is always calming, always reassuring, it always makes me feel overwhelmingly loved. It always gives me a sense of peace, which is deeper than any pain and stronger than any fear. No wonder the Scriptures talk of a 'peace that passes all understanding!'"

God speaks to us individually, through His Word, the Bible. And sometimes, when we are outside, He can also speak to us through His beautiful world.

The blue sky says; "Always Look Up", the Sun says; "Shine," the birds say; "Sing", the trees say; "be fruitful", the flowers say; "consider the Lilies", The open road ahead says; "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel". The gentle rustle of the wind in the trees says; "Though you can't see My face, you can hear Me, see reflections of Me, feel Me, touch Me and know me through all I create, if you just take the time to be still!"

Norma Murrain is a jewellery designer at
www.silverfishjewellery.co.uk



THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

We take a break during July and August. Our 2023-24 season begins in September. The cost to join remains £40 (visitors £6). In addition to the lectures listed below we will be offering our members an exciting programme of visits to places of cultural interest including walks in London. Please share this with anyone who may be interested in joining. New members and visitors are always very welcome.

2023-24 PROGRAMME

Lectures are held in the Egerton Millennium Hall, Elm Close, TN27 9DS and begin at 2.30 p.m. on the second Wednesday in the month. Parking is free.

13th September: Simon Whitehouse *'Artistic and Literary Chelsea'*

11th October: Tyler Butterworth *'An Actor's Life'*

8th November: Siobhan Clarke *'Gloriana: the art of Elizabeth I'*

13th December: Tony Rawlins *'The 3 Kings – the Real Story'*

14th February: Susan Kay-Williams *'The History of the Royal School of Needlework'*

13th March: Russell Nash *'The Men who made Menswear'*

10th April: Bertie Pearce *'The Dancing Faun – a personal Story of a Masterpiece'*

8th May: Fiona Rose *'Uncompromising Genius: the Life and Work of Frank Lloyd Wright'*

12th June: Dr John Snelson *'West End Winners – the rise of the British Musical from Noel Coward to Lionel Bart'*

Please see our website: www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk or contact our Membership Secretary Christine on 01233 756377



CANTERBURY COP

30th September in the Clagett Auditorium, Canterbury Cathedral. CT1 1EH

This is our first diocesan climate change event and you are invited to come and celebrate the good things that people around the diocese are doing to tackle climate change. Our speakers will be talking on a range of issues such as Creation Care as Mission, Eco Church, Net Zero and what Parish Buying offers our communities. The diocesan Eco Champions will be present to inform and answer questions on the Eco Church survey. They are also able to offer support on what you are doing or would like to do, in your own area. A variety of resources will be available on the day.

Young people are particularly welcome, as we want to hear their voices and please do invite others from your church or anyone else who might wish to attend.

This event is free, refreshments will be served from 8.30am with a 9am start, and the location is fully accessible. Please book at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/canterbury-cop-2023-tickets-657440180277>

After the conference there will be a Service of Reflection in the Cathedral from 2-2.30pm. Please join us in this wonderful space to give thanks and praise to God.

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- Clubs
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- Weddings

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jacksonandadams@btopenworld.com 07754 114760

See our availability here: <https://www.eastlingvillagehall.co.uk/calendar>



Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

The last few weeks gave the opportunity to our ladies for a couple outings and a Meeting. We had been liaising with Mrs. Katz to visit her garden at the Old Rectory, Otterden for several months and we finally managed to arrange a date on 23rd June. It was a bit last minute, but four of us were able to spend a lovely afternoon looking around her garden, culminating with tea and cake. It has been some years since we initially visited and it was lovely to see the improvements she and her Gardener have made to the garden, including a beautiful swimming pool creating a stunning vista and a wildlife lake. We were very grateful to Mrs. Katz for the personal tour.

Keeping with the gardening theme, our Group arranged to visit Donderry Lavender Nursery on 4th July in the afternoon. We needed a minimum of 10 to qualify for a conducted tour, which we did achieve eventually by asking along friends and past members. This had been a visit that was well received when submitted to our Group earlier in the year, so the lack of interest was disappointing. Dr. Simon Charlesworth gave us a



tour of the Nursery which now has 400 varieties of Lavender and is the National Collection. It is contained within a walled garden, the smell of lavender when entering through the gates was overpowering! They have won many prestigious awards over the years

exhibiting at Chelsea, Hampton Court etc.

Finally, at our Meeting on 5th July the Medical Detection Dogs Charity sent along a Speaker Sharon Lynn. She spoke passionately and at length about the wonderful worth these dogs perform. Sadly though, another disappointing turn out, perhaps because we are now in the holiday season?

Our August Meeting on Wednesday 2nd, will be a social gathering with fare to share food and drink. As a talking point, bring along a Wedding photograph, either of yourself or past relatives.

Contact Helen Brooks on 07477580727 or Ellie Cameron on 01795 892016 should you wish to join us.

Sunday Services

6th August Trinity 9 The Transfiguration

2 Peter 1. 16 - 19, Luke 9. 28 - 36

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

13th August Trinity 10

Romans 10. 5 - 15, Matthew 14. 22 - 33

Eastling 9am Holy Communion BCP

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

Wychling 4pm Evensong

20th August Trinity 11

Romans 11. 1-2a, 29-32, Matthew 15. 21 - 28

Newnham 9am Holy Communion BCP

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

27th August Trinity 12

Romans 12. 1 - 8, Matthew 16. 13 - 20

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

Newnham 10.30 am Morning Worship

3rd September Trinity 13

Romans 12. 9 - 21, Matthew 16. 21 - 28

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

Otterden 5.00pm Evensong

Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily
9am Morning Prayer at Lynsted and

Breakthrough on Sundays at 6pm, will continue
at Lynsted and online on <https://kc-hd.org.uk> .

More information is updated weekly on
St Mary's Eastling 'A Church Near You':

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/>

High Downs Parish

Rector Reverend Canon Dr. Steve Lillicrap
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Associate Priest Reverend James (Jim) Pye
01795 890726 jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk

Curate Reverend Caroline Turvey
01795 886351 caroline.turvey@kc-hd.org.uk

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)

Anna Chaplain Caroline Ramshaw
AnnaChaplaincy@outlook.com

Reader Pim Baxter (07710 116269)

Church Contacts

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Administrator E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden

Jenny King, Warden (01795 890366)

Administrator Shirley Pritchard
Email: Stmarystalisfield@gmail.com

Throwley Tim Jones, Warden
Email: timothydavid.jones@yahoo.co.uk

High Downs Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mark Harlow (07979 864000)

Parish Office Email: eastlingchurch@gmail.com
facebook.com/highdownsbenefice

From The Registers

Baptism

Emily Kashdan
9th July at Stalisfield

CONTACT THE *GOOD NEWS* EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in
the September 2023 magazine, send your submission
by 20th August to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

Past and current issues of the Good News may be
viewed on www.goodnews.rf.gd

Wychling Church

Summer

Evensong
4pm

13th August and
10th September



Otterden Chapel

The summer

Evensong at Otterden
will be on

Sunday 3rd September
at 5 pm

Anna Chaplaincy

Please contact our Anna Chaplain, Caroline Ramshaw, if you know
of someone who is isolated, alone, or unable to attend church.

An Anna Chaplain can offer a listening ear and company.

Communion can be brought to you in your own home.



Contact your local Anna Chaplain on:
annachaplaincy@outlook.com

07799538809



Open Air Theatre: **The Wizard of Oz**

Sunday 27th August, 2pm

Join Dorothy on her quest to the Emerald City as she and her loyal friends: the brainless but cheeky scarecrow, the cowardly lion, and the heartless (literally!) tin man, navigate through a magical land in search of the mighty and mysterious, Wizard of Oz. Adult £15, Child/Student £12, Family £50 & Children under 3 Free.

Belmont House & Gardens, Throwley,
Faversham, Kent ME13 0HH
www.belmont-house.org

Why are Pirates called Pirates? Because they AAARRRRRRGGGH!!

August 12th, 15th, 18th, 19th
11am - 2pm Fleur de Lis museum,
Preston Street



Come and try our new pirate trail, make your own treasure map, do some origami, try on Tudor costumes, learn about the town of Faversham and its fascinating history and so much more...

Pirate Captain John Ward, who was born and lived on Abbey Street in the 1550s and who is said to have inspired the character of Captain Jack Sparrow "the 'greatest scoundrel that ever sailed' will be visiting Sat 12th, Tues 15th, Fri 18th & Sat 19th August, between 11am - 2pm.

Kids - come and try on some fabulous Tudor costumes and see how you would have looked 500 years ago! You can learn about how people lived and come and meet pirate Captain John Ward! See if you can join his crew, find his treasure and make your own treasure map.

Part of Open Faversham, 12th - 20th August: <https://openfaversham.info>

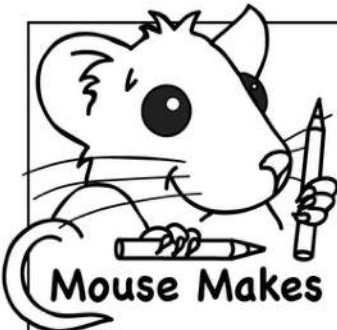


STALISFIELD YOUTH GROUP



Stalisfield Youth Group takes a break through August but returns on September 13th. It is free to all 11-18y olds on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month 7-8.30pm at Stalisfield Village Hall. We have table tennis, craft, games, summer outdoor sports equipment, music, Wii and Xbox gaming, tuck shop and free cake!

Any questions please contact Catherine
07929 928 046



Mouse Makes

After Jesus miraculously fed 5,000+ people from two fish and five loaves, he sent his disciples off in a boat across the Sea of Galilee before going up a mountain by himself. Later in the night, as the boat was being blown and buffeted by the wind, Jesus came miraculously walking on the water towards them...


Read the story in: *Matthew 14: 22-27, Mark 6:45-56 or John 6:16-21*

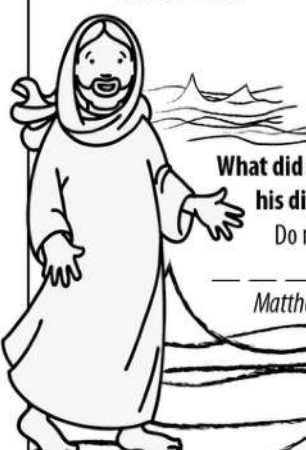
What did Jesus do when he went up on the mountain?

Matthew 14:23

What was the boat struggling against?

The ----- and the -----
Matthew 14:24





What did Jesus say to his disciples?
Do not be -----
Matthew 14:27

What did the disciples think Jesus was when they saw him walking on the sea?

A -----
Matthew 14:26

Who walked out on the water to Jesus?

Matthew 14:29

What did Jesus say to Peter?
Oh you of little ----- why do you -----
Matthew 14:31

W F W A F R A I D Y C K O C S
I N O T F E A R W A T E R M R B B O J
N N R L A L O N E K I N T O O O E M E
D I S C I P L E S A V E E U W A V E S
G G H E T E R R I F I E D N D T E S U
H H I A H T L G U D O U B T S Y N I S
O T P S S E A K P R A Y W A L K I N G
S F E E A R N O T H E R S I D E N K S
T O D D T V D G K N F S O N O F G O D

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Answer the questions then find them in the word search

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A.S.A.P.

Have you ever considered the abbreviation A.S.A.P. (As Soon As Possible)? Generally, it brings even more hurry and stress into our lives. Yet there is another way to think of A.S.A.P, a way which might help us deal with those difficult times in our daily lives.

When there's work to do, and deadlines to meet, and your colleagues are rushing around, here's what you can do to help: **A.S.A.P. – Always Say a Prayer.** When your worries mount up and you don't know how you are ever going to cope with what is coming at you: **A.S.A.P. – Always Say a Prayer.**

God knows how stressful our lives can be, and He wants to ease our cares. In the Bible He promises to respond to our calls for help. So – call Him! A.S.A.P.!

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John Bunyan, the writer of Pilgrim's Progress

After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the Pilgrim's Progress, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than 100 languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic. Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only recall Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

John was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians. From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of his life. He wrote more than 50 books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church.

Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote Pilgrim's Progress. It was not only Bunyan's greatest book, but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world.

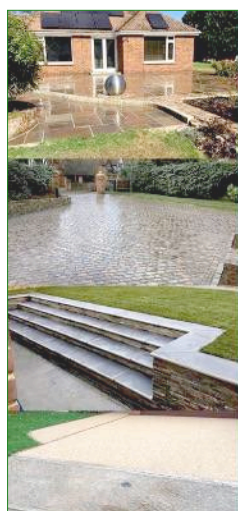
Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual

lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the Pilgrim's Progress covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.

Bunyan died on 31st August 1688. His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant For Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best. This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ had received his summons to 'go home.' Calling his friends together he says, "My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage ... My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, Who will now be my rewarder." ... So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side..'

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Updates from Citizens Advice Swale

citizens
advice

What can you do if your package holiday goes wrong?

Most of us have a lovely time when we go away. But if something goes wrong with your package holiday, tell the company or travel agent you booked with straight away. If you don't say anything until you get home, you might get less or no compensation at all.

If the holiday you went on turned out to be lower in value than the one you booked you can make a claim for 'loss of value'. For example you paid for a deluxe room but got a standard one, if it wasn't sorted out at the time you can claim back the difference in value.

You can also claim 'out-of-pocket expenses' for any extra money you spend while away, for example the hotel was a bus ride away from the beach rather than across the road as advertised. If this happens make sure you keep your receipts.

If big parts of the trip you booked didn't happen or services weren't provided, you can make a claim for 'loss of enjoyment'. Any claim you make must be reasonable. You can't get compensation if you simply didn't enjoy the holiday or if the problem was out of the holiday company's control - like bad weather.

If you don't get the service you've been promised, you may be entitled to compensation for breach of contract. You might also be able to claim from your travel insurance.

How can we help you?

- **General Advice:** Call Adviceline on 0808 278 7979, send an online request at <https://citizensadvice.wales.uk/email-general-advice/> or come to a drop-in session at Swale House, Sittingbourne on Mondays 10am-12pm, or 43 Stone Street, Faversham on Wednesdays and Fridays 10am-12pm.
- **Debt:** Request a call back at <https://citizensadvice.wales.uk/debt/>
- Our services are subject to adviser availability. Please follow us on social media for up to date opening hours.

We offer free, confidential and impartial advice to people living or working in and around Faversham, Sheppey and Sittingbourne. In addition to general advice we offer specialist advice services including debt and benefits. We're an independent charity and we rely on donations and grants to make a difference to people in our community.



The Forget-Me-Not

by Audrey Keen.

Once, in a warm and sunny spot,
I found a wild Forget-me-not
And took from it, in my mind's
eye,
The colouring to paint a sky.
For in its faded blue I felt
The strength of broad clouds
slowly melt,
While from its yellow centred star
I saw a golden sun.

International Bat Night: 26th-27th August

Did you know that there are 18 species of bat in the UK?

And did you know that these bats make up almost a quarter of ALL our mammal species?

So, our UK bats are well worth celebrating. And International Bat Night brings together bat groups and the Bat Conservation Trust, to provide many opportunities for bat walks and talks at dusk in local neighbourhoods across the UK. www.bats.org.uk/support-bats/international-bat-night

Eat Pray Walk

If you enjoy a gentle stroll with friends why not join us once a month as we gather together to chat and enjoy all that is glorious in our creation. And we have tea and cake back at the church with a short time to breathe and reflect in the midst of whatever we're experiencing in our day to day lives.

4th Friday of each month.

Start at Doddington Church Car Park at 1.30pm (with dogs if you have them)



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Vicky and John foster carers for Kent County Council

I am Vicky and alongside my husband John, we have been Fostering with Kent County Council since June 2020.

After having my own children, my two girls and with 19 years of nursery life experience in an early year setting. I was ready to and wanted to embrace a new adventure. Fostering had always been at the back of my mind.

We came together as a family to discuss this next adventure as it wouldn't just be John and myself, our girls would also play a huge part in our fostering role. We all felt happy to go ahead with our application and were now ready to take the next step.

The information evenings were so valuable to us learning about fostering and it was so helpful to speak with carers who had been fostering for some time. We felt very at ease asking any questions that we wanted to know and listened to the amazing stories from some of the carers.

We started the initial process and felt really connected and supported with our assessing social worker. She got

Foster for Kent

to know us very well and the girls enjoyed doing lovely activities with her. When it came to the day of the Fostering Panel, I was very nervous, but they were all so welcoming and very professional in their roles and made a very nerve-racking time go lovely and smooth. It was such a memorable experience.

We chose Kent County Council to foster as we had done a lot of research and believed that this Council were the most supportive of their carers. Which has turned out to be so true! Kent lives up to that standard. As foster carers we have always felt supported by our fostering social worker and reassured that they will be on hand to answer any questions that we have via the phone or will respond to our emails as soon as they can. The six weekly supervisions are a great space to share any worries around the child/children you have at the time, and we are always asked how we are feeling/coping/managing and how our girls were adjusting to these changes at home.

When we moved on the children that we were caring for to adoption we had such fantastic support for our girls from our Fostering Social Worker. She came to our home and made lovely creative pieces for all the children to keep. They were told they could call her at any time if they needed to talk about this process. What really stood out was that Kent Fostering supported us as a family. They recognise that every member of our family is important and included in our journey.

As a very proud foster carer for Kent, I must share with you the wide range of training available and it's so easy to

access such as with online training, face to face training and outstanding conferences that fill you with such knowledge. You can achieve even more by doing level 3 and level 4 Diplomas. I have found all the training of such good quality and learnt so much in such a short time. I honestly cannot rate this highly enough.

We are enjoying our roles as foster carers. It's not just a job though, you open your house, family, and heart to help these vulnerable children and being a key part in helping these children change their little lives around.....it is just so rewarding! It is hard to explain but being able to watch children grow and flourish is the most beautiful feeling in the world, and to know that we have made that happen as a family gives us such happiness.

Our birth children are thanked and rewarded for being young carers. My girls join in with fantastic activities such as pizza making workshops, water sports and many more! They have made some fantastic fostering family friends and they have also joined the Children Who Care council and feel they have a strong voice in helping care for these children.

I would really encourage anyone who is thinking about fostering to do it. We have met some great friends in our fostering role, and we never feel alone. We are like a big family, and it is the most supported role I have ever had. It was and still is the best decision we made to foster and to foster with Kent, and I look forward to many more years of fostering with the Kent Fostering Team.

If you've been inspired by Vicky's story and would like to find out more, please call us on 03000 420 002, send us an email at kentfostering@kent.gov.uk or visit our website page www.kentfostering.co.uk

Call us on 03000 420 002 or visit
our website kentfostering.co.uk

Eastling Church August Flower Rota

6th & 13th - Pippa & Gaby

20th & 27th - Cerys

3rd Sept - Julia M & Angela

If you would like to join the flower arranging rota, please call Bay on 01795 892036.



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EASTLING PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Eastling Parish Council will be held in Eastling village hall on Monday 18th September at 6.30pm. Residents are welcome to attend.

Eastling Village Websites

The Parish Council has recently reviewed the various websites that provide information about Eastling. There are currently four main websites where information can be found:

Eastling Parish Council: <https://www.hugofox.com/community/eastling-parish-council-15993/home/>

Swale Brough Council: <https://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/mgParishCouncilDetails.aspx?ID=171>

Eastling Village: <https://www.eastlingvillage.co.uk/>

Eastling Village Hall: <https://www.eastlingvillagehall.co.uk/>

Following an analysis of the information held on each site, it has become apparent that there is considerable duplication and that savings could be made by rationalising the websites.

It has therefore been decided to stop updating and funding the Eastling Village website. Most of the content is already duplicated on other sites and any that isn't will be moved onto one of the other sites to ensure that no information is lost. The transfer of information will be done over the coming weeks and then the Eastling Village website will be shut down.



Eastling Neighbourhood Watch

Village Warden 07794 010 394
or 01795 890848

Police 101 **Emergency** 999

It is that time of the year when all the harvest will be gathered in so be very careful on the local roads as there will be heavy farm equipment being moved about.

With the harvesting of the crops, no doubt there will be following on the nasty people who wish to hare course. If seen please report to the police, or give me a call, with the location.

There were some shed break-ins in the local area during July, but as yet none reported in Eastling. Please make sure that all your out buildings are secure.

There have been instances where people have put on media sites that they will be away or on holiday at certain times, this certainly is **not** advisable for obvious reasons.

There are many scams around at the moment so please be extra careful either online or strangers at your door and the inevitable phone call from either 'your bank' or a utility company. Have a good month
Take care, Alan

STALISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Stalisfield Parish Council will be held in Stalisfield village hall on Monday 14th August at 6pm. Residents are welcome to attend.

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Stalisfield sited at Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 0JE

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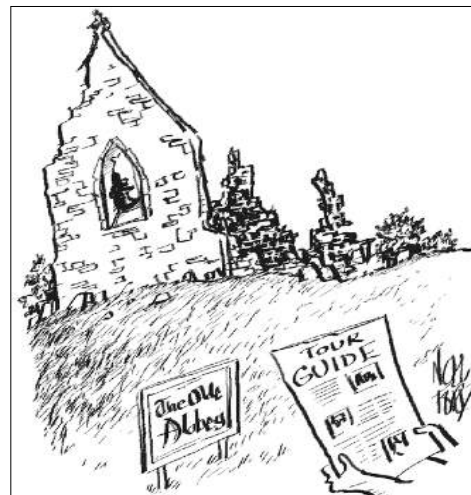
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A summer holiday visiting old ruins was just the thing to put the vicar's leaky roof problems into perspective

Calling for an end to Op Brock delays

We've all been there. Whether it's the morning commute, a lunchtime errand, or nipping out to pick up the kids from school – almost everyone in Kent has had a 20-minute trip turned into a nightmare thanks to traffic caused by Operation Brock.

I'm sure, like mine, hearts across the county will have sunk at the news that it's set to restart in July.

Although it's disruptive, Op Brock makes sense when responding to exceptional circumstances, like strikes or extreme weather. But this latest deployment appears to be in preparation for summer holiday traffic – something that happens every year.

Blocking up Kent's roads every time there's a school holiday or delays at the ports isn't a long-term solution. It's not fair

on people stuck in jams, it's not fair on families stuck at home, and it's not fair on our local businesses either.

Take the wonderful Leeds Castle as an example. In the summer holidays families come from far and wide to visit, and the money that raises helps to keep the castle going over the winter. But when the M20's jammed it puts lots of people off going. The castle simply can't survive if that happens every summer.

That's why straight after receiving the news of the latest Brock deployment I sent a letter to the Transport Secretary Mark Harper. I made it clear that Kent is bearing the brunt of a national issue, and we need a national solution as soon as possible.

I asked him what ministers are doing to reduce the reliance on Op Brock, and when we can expect a permanent, alternative plan. I also asked when the resurfacing of the M20, which was postponed in December because of Op Brock, will be rescheduled.

The next step will be arranging a meeting with the Roads Minister to discuss this in more detail. I will do whatever I can to speed things up, and I know that other Kent MPs will too. Local bodies like Kent Highways have got bags of knowledge about this issue, and we need to bring people together to find a way forward.

Kent is the UK's gateway to Europe, but it's also our home. I'm going to keep fighting for a solution which recognises that.

In the meantime, please do get in touch with my office to report if you're affected. The more information we have, the louder our voice will be.

Let's get those Brock barriers put away once and for all.
www.helenwhately.org.uk

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Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 0HY - Thursdays 18.30 - 19.30

Lenham Community Centre - Tuesdays 6.45 - 7.45pm
and Saturdays 9-10am

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